



# IT'S TIME TO WORK ON THE CAR!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Each year in the United States, an estimated **180 million** gallons of used oil are disposed of improperly. That's sixteen times the amount spilled by the *Exxon Valdez*! Improper disposal of auto fluids includes dripping, spilling, or pouring them onto the ground, directly into waterways, or down storm drains.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Proper use and disposal of auto fluids is an easy way to prevent storm water pollution and protect our lakes and streams.

- ✿ **DO** drain fluid into a drain pan. Use a funnel to pour fluid into a plastic container.
- ✿ **DO** recycle used oil.
- ✿ **DO** recycle your old oil filter. Poke holes in it and let it drain into your oil pan for several hours first.
- ✿ **DO** dispose of radiator fluid properly. Don't flush your radiator where fluids may flow into a street, gutter, or storm drain.
- ✿ **DO** use a commercial car wash that recycles water or discharges it directly to the sewer for treatment.
- ✿ **DO** wash your car on a lawn, gravel driveway, or area where soapy water will not run into a street or storm drain.
- ✿ **DO** use soap sparingly if you must wash your car at home - even biodegradable soap is toxic to wildlife.
- ✿ **DO** pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink when you're done.
- ✿ **DO** use paper towels to wipe brake dust off of wheels before washing.
- ✿ **DO** choose a work area that is easy to clean up, with an impervious floor if possible.
- ✿ **DO** use plastic tarps and drip pans when your car is leaking, and when you're working on it. Fix leaks as soon as possible!
- ✿ **DO** use sawdust or cat litter for spills. For small spills, sweep the material up, bag it, and put it in the trash. For large spills, take the material to a Household Hazardous Waste Disposal center or collection day (visit [www.uwex.edu/erc/hazwste.html](http://www.uwex.edu/erc/hazwste.html) for a list of Household Hazardous Waste facilities and programs)
- ✿ **DON'T** drain or pour any auto fluid onto the street or into a storm drain.
- ✿ **DON'T** mix coolant with other auto fluids. They are not recyclable when mixed.
- ✿ **DON'T** use spray-on wheel cleaners or rinse them off, if the rinse water will flow into the street or storm drain.
- ✿ **DON'T** hose down your work area!

*Modified from the City of Monterey Public Works—Stormwater Management Program*

**REMEMBER** any drips or spills left in a street or driveway can flow to a storm drain and into a lake or stream!



Please visit Fond du Lac County Urban Storm Water Management website for more information.  
<http://www.fdlco.wi.gov/Index.aspx?page=1094>